



LOSSOLOGY 101

# SESSION 4





### SETTING THE HEART

Session 3 taught us that even though we have an all-powerful and all-loving God, bad outcomes happen. These bad outcomes bring hurt and pain. The hurt and pain can be traced back to the consequences of the Fall, which we explored in Session 1.

God is still all-powerful and all-loving, but His power and His love show up in our circumstances differently than we might expect...or want.

There is obviously a good reason why Jesus' "nickname" is Immanuel. In God's grand redemptive plan, which included His people living through bad outcomes in a fallen world, His presence, expressed as "God with us" in Immanuel, would be very needed.

Focus your heart on this name for a moment as you prepare to immerse yourself in the biggest gift we have from God in the middle of hard times: His presence.

*<sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:  
<sup>23</sup> "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").*

—Matthew 1:22-23

### DIGGING IN

Each passage below represents a point where troubles of this world intersect with power, love and grace from God. As you read these passages, look for the following:

- 1. Underline anything that gives insight into trouble we might face in this world.**
- 2. Circle anything that points to God's help in our trouble.**

#### **Genesis 3:6-7; 21**

<sup>6</sup>When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

<sup>21</sup>The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.

**Genesis 9:12-16**

<sup>12</sup> And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: <sup>13</sup> I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup> Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, <sup>15</sup> I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. <sup>16</sup> Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth."

**John 11:32-34**

<sup>32</sup> When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." <sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. <sup>34</sup> "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied.

<sup>35</sup> Jesus wept.

<sup>36</sup> Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" <sup>37</sup> But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" <sup>38</sup> Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb.

**John 16:33**

<sup>33</sup> "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

**2 Corinthians 1:3-5**

<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, <sup>4</sup> who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. <sup>5</sup> For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ.

**2 Corinthians 4:7-12**

<sup>7</sup> But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. <sup>8</sup> We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; <sup>9</sup> persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. <sup>10</sup> We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. <sup>11</sup> For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. <sup>12</sup> So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.

## TAKING IT INWARD

Take a minute to internalize these passages using the questions below as prompts.

**What forms of God’s power, love, or grace do you see in each passage?**

Passage	Form of power, love or grace
Genesis 3:6-7; 21	
Genesis 9:12-16	
John 11:32-34	
John 16:33	
2 Corinthians 1:3-5	
2 Corinthians 4:7-12	

**Which of these passages gives you the most comfort?**

**What do these passages tell you we can expect from this world?**

**What do these passages tell you we can expect from God?**

**In John 11, the phrase “deeply moved” was a Greek word that was used to describe the snorting of a horse. It’s possible Jesus was snort crying. What insight does this give you into how Jesus views our pain and suffering?**

## CROSS-CHECKING

But wait, there’s more!

You may want to probe a little deeper into the overlap between trouble in this world and the presence of God in our troubles, check out the passages at the top of the next page from your Bible (three of them are from Session 3 Setting the Heart). As you might guess, God has plenty to say on this subject. As you read these passages, look for additional insight into what we can expect from this world and from God.

**Exodus 3:11–12**

**Judges 6:14–16**

**Jeremiah 1:4–8**

**John 14:15-17**

**1 Peter 1:6-7**

### **TAKING IT INWARD**

Internalize the information from the passages above with these questions:

**What’s the main theme you see in these passages?**

**How do these passages encourage you with regard to facing hardships?**

**In Session 3 we explored the fact that hardship will come; even God’s most faithful followers weren’t let off the hook. How do all the passages of Session 4 help answer the hard truth of Session 3?**

### **PUTTING INTO PRACTICE**

Think about how you normally pray. If you’re like most believers, a good portion, if not most, of your prayer time is spent asking God for a desired outcome. Of course, in parts of the Bible we are instructed to ask for the desires of our hearts. But if God has something He wants to accomplish in our lives that is far greater than granting our desires (see Ephesians 3:20-21), then we miss an entire element in interacting with God when we limit our requests to our desires.

Close your time by pondering the questions at the top of the next page and writing your thoughts in the space provided. For this session, the act of “putting into practice” will happen within your heart and mind, as opposed to prompts and ideas for behavior change.

**How do these passages shape (or change) your view of God's involvement in our world?**

**How could these passages impact (or change) your prayer life, either in the middle of troubling circumstances, or with the possibility of troubling circumstances (awaiting medical test results, navigating friendships/relationships, employment uncertainty, family issues).**

**How do these passages shape (or change) how you might articulate a prayer request?**

**How does the picture of Jesus snort crying for His friends (John 11) minister to you?**